

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 4-22 are currently pending in the subject application. Claims 1 and 21 are independent. No amendments have been made. Claims 1 and 4-22 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, dated December 7, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-17 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,422,685 to Kondo et al. ("the Kondo et al. reference"), and objected to claims 18 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1, 4-17 and 20-22

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-17 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Kondo et al. reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 21 recite, in part, "wherein the liquid inlet and the liquid outlet each extend through the inner pressure chamber and the cavity resonator." In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner relies on FIG. 2 of the Kondo et al. reference, and alleges that the ink chamber 106 is the inner pressure chamber, the piezoelectric element 100 is the cavity resonator and opening 108 (not actually referred to in the body of the Kondo et al. reference) is the liquid inlet/outlet.

Even assuming the piezoelectric element 100 in the Kondo et al. reference surrounds the chamber 106, as also recited in claims 1 and 21, there is still no teaching in the Kondo et

al. reference to provide the liquid inlet and the liquid outlet in the cavity resonator, as recited in the independent claims, and as can clearly be seen, for example, in FIG. 2A of the original specification, in which the inlet 21 and the outlet 30 are in the cavity resonator 20. Further, there is no discussion in the Kondo et al. reference regarding the resonance frequency of the cavity itself.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Kondo et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 21. The remaining rejected claims depend from respective ones of these independent claims, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18 and 19. However, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

D. Conclusion


Since the cited Kondo et al. reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, the applicant respectfully submit that claims 1 and 4-22 are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.